

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 and 2 **(Cancelled)**

3. **(New)** A tension adjusting device for an engine accessory driving belt, comprising:
- a tension pulley configured to be brought into contact with the engine accessory driving belt;
 - a pivotable pulley arm supporting said tension pulley and having a boss at one end thereof, said boss having an end surface and being formed with a shaft insertion hole which opens through said end surface of said boss;
 - a slide bearing pressed in said shaft insertion hole and having at one end thereof a flange in abutment with said end surface of said boss;
 - a tubular fulcrum shaft mounted in said slide bearing;
 - a bolt axially extending through said fulcrum shaft and configured to be brought into threaded engagement with an engine block, thereby pivotally supporting said pulley arm;
 - a hydraulic auto-tensioner for applying a regulating force to said pulley arm, thereby pressing said tension pulley against the belt;
 - a washer comprising a disk portion and a cylindrical portion axially extending from a radially outer edge of said disk portion, said disk portion being disposed between a head of said bolt and said end surface of said boss so as to axially face said flange of said slide bearing with a first gap between said flange of said slide bearing and said disk portion of said washer, said cylindrical portion of said washer surrounding an end portion of said boss including said end surface of said boss; and
 - a slinger comprising a cylindrical portion having first and second axial ends, said first axial end being disposed closer than said second axial end to said end surface of said boss, and a flange radially outwardly extending from said second axial end of said cylindrical portion of said slinger, said cylindrical portion of said slinger being mounted on said end portion of said boss and radially facing said cylindrical portion of said washer with a second gap between said cylindrical portion of said slinger and said cylindrical portion of said washer, said flange of said slinger axially facing an axial end surface of said

cylindrical portion of said washer with a third gap between said flange of said slinger and said axial end surface of said cylindrical portion of said washer, said first, second and third gaps communicating with each other so as to define a labyrinth.

4. **(New)** A tension adjusting device for an engine accessory driving belt, comprising:
a tension pulley configured to be brought into contact with the engine accessory driving belt;

a pivotable pulley arm supporting said tension pulley;

a hydraulic auto-tensioner for applying a regulating force to said pulley arm, thereby pressing said tension pulley against the belt, said auto-tensioner having at one end thereof a coupling piece formed with a bushing insertion through hole extending between two sides thereof;

a tubular bushing inserted in said bushing insertion through hole;

a bolt inserted through said bushing and brought into threaded engagement with said pulley arm and tightened to fix said bushing to said pulley arm, thereby pivotally coupling said one end of said hydraulic auto-tensioner to said pulley arm; and

first and second washers, said first washer comprising a disk portion disposed between opposed surfaces of said bushing and said pulley arm, and a cylindrical portion axially extending from a radially outer edge of said disk portion of said first washer toward said second washer such that said cylindrical portion of said first washer has a distal end with an axially-facing end surface, said second washer comprising a disk portion disposed between opposed surfaces of said bushing and a head of said bolt, and a cylindrical portion axially extending from a radially outer edge of said disk portion of said second washer toward said first washer such that said cylindrical portion of said second washer has a distal end with an axially-facing end surface;

wherein said coupling piece has first and second annular protrusions each formed at one of two open ends of said bushing insertion through hole;

wherein said first annular protrusion has an axial end surface axially facing said disk portion of said first washer with a first gap between said disk portion of said first washer and said axial end surface of said first annular protrusion, and a radially outer surface radially facing said cylindrical portion of said first washer with a second gap

between said cylindrical portion of said first washer and said radially outer surface of said first annular protrusion, said first annular protrusion defining a first recess radially outside thereof which has an axially-facing bottom that axially faces said axially-facing end surface at said distal end of said cylindrical portion of said first washer with a third gap between said axially-facing bottom of said first recess and said axially-facing end surface at said distal end of said cylindrical portion of said first washer, said first, second and third gaps communicating with each other so as to define a first labyrinth; and

wherein said second annular protrusion has an axial end surface axially facing said disk portion of said second washer with a fourth gap between said disk portion of said second washer and said axial end surface of said first annular protrusion, and a radially outer surface radially facing said cylindrical portion of said second washer with a fifth gap between said cylindrical portion of said second washer and said radially outer surface of said second annular protrusion, said second annular protrusion defining a second recess radially outside thereof which has an axially-facing bottom that axially faces said axially-facing end surface of said distal end of said cylindrical portion of said washer with a sixth gap between said axially-facing bottom of said second recess and said axially-facing end surface at said distal end of said cylindrical portion of said second washer, said fourth, fifth and sixth gaps communicating with each other so as to define a second labyrinth.